

Hafa Adai!

NMC alumnus Keane Palacios helps protect CNMI's borders. **PAGE 2**

4 SIS seniors selected as Questbridge National College Match finalists. **PAGE 5**

\$1

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PSS CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT:

'Rise in student vaping pervasive problem at most public schools'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
delatorreferdie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A pervasive issue confronting most public schools in the CNMI is the rise in student vaping, according to the Public School System Citizen Centric Report for fiscal year 2024 released yesterday.

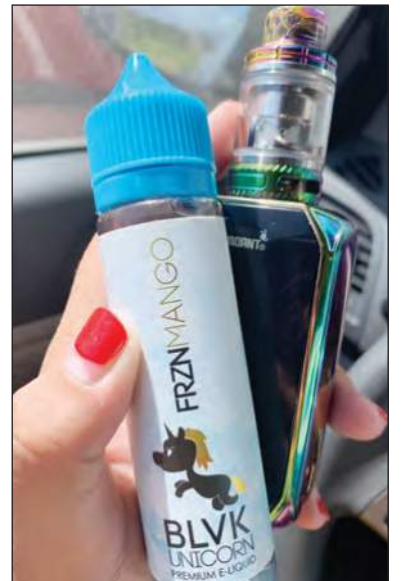
» **ARPA funding bridged local budget gap of \$32M and \$24M for personnel costs for FY 2023, 2024**

The PSS CCR, which was submitted to the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, also discloses that despite an annual personnel cost of \$40 million, PSS has only received \$19 million, \$24 million, and \$25 million in local funding over the past three years—far short of the required \$45 million

See **VAPING** on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The latest Public School System Citizen Centric Report notes the challenge in preventing student vaping lies in the difficulty of detecting students in the act, compounded by the increasingly discreet design of vaping devices.



PURPLE WAVE, WALK, AND ROLL

The area around the San Antonio basketball court was full of community members yesterday afternoon with the holding of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse's Purple Wave, Walk, and Roll with this year's theme "Solidarity for Safety." The event started at 5pm and lasted for 30 minutes. It was followed by a walk led by the JROTC Manta Ray Battalion.

RACQUEL FLOYD

FAA accepts Star Marianas' complaint vs. CPA

» **Requests additional information**

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Aviation Administration has

accepted Star Marianas Air, Inc.'s informal complaint alleging that the Commonwealth Ports Authority is in violation of federal grant

See **FAA** on Page 4

House panel OKs bill penalizing judges for unjustified recusals



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations passed yesterday a bill that essentially imposes penalties on judges for unjustified recusals.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations passed yesterday House Bill

23-119 House Substitute 1 which essentially imposes penalties on judges for unjustified recusals.

Yesterday, JGO committee chair Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan)

See **HOUSE** on Page 4



Castro

Bill to compensate working inmates moves to House

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations has passed House Bill

See **BILL** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Brandon Lizama Benavente will spend the next seven years behind bars following his guilty plea to burglary and illegal possession of a firearm.

PAGE 8



LOCAL

Green Meadow School celebrated a major victory at the recent Primary Grade Forensic Competition last Oct. 12 at Mt. Carmel School.

PAGE 9



LIFE & STYLE

Former One Direction singer Liam Payne, 31, whose chart-topping British boy band generated a global following of swooning fans, was found dead Wednesday after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires, local officials said.

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Local

FROM NMC TO CBP:

NMC alumnus Keane Palacios helps protect CNMI's borders

Northern Marianas College alumnus Keane T. Palacios has gone from achieving an associate degree at home to playing a vital role in protecting the Commonwealth's borders.

Palacios, an Associate in Liberal Arts graduate from NMC in 2002, a Bachelor in Business graduate from Boise State University in 2007, and a Masters in Business Administration graduate from the University of Phoenix in 2009, is a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer with the Department of Homeland Security with duties that include the facilitation of lawful trade and travel and advancing National Security to protect the people and economy of the CNMI

and the United States.

Prior to working at CBP, Palacios held positions in the fields of business and education, from business manager to HR specialist, and numerous positions in customer service to program coordinator, program manager, and adjunct instructor. He cites his time at NMC as a big contributor to learning the skills needed to fulfill those responsibilities in various sectors of his previous places of employment.

His pursuit of a business administration degree stemmed from being around a business-minded family background.

"I made the decision to pursue Business Administration because I was in that kind of



Northern Marianas College alumnus Keane T. Palacios at his workplace as a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer with the Department of Homeland Security.

environment growing up. My grandparents owned a business and I enjoyed assisting the family business and did see the benefits of owning

your own business; especially a profitable one."

When discussing how NMC has helped him in his current role at CBP, he men-

tions learning the fundamentals of the degree program he was going to pursue away from home at NMC.

"NMC prepared me in so many ways, including the fundamentals of critical thinking, writing, and communication skills. I graduated from NMC with an AA in Liberal Arts before studying abroad.

NMC was a big part of building that foundation of skills and education I needed to be successful at the universities I attended," said Palacios.

"It is very important to know that one of the requirements that qualifies a person for a decent job with decent pay is education," he added.

Reminiscing about his favorite memories during his time as a Proa, he talks about the unique learning experience he was involved in with the classes he took, as well as the overall college experience.

"In terms of personal growth, I liked the experience of being a college student: making my own decision of what classes to take, meeting different people/classmates every semester, be-

ing my own person, and practicing the responsibility of keeping up with my studies. The journey is always the fun part. In terms of classes, I enjoyed a few science courses where the instructor took us on hiking trips; those were the most fun, and I also really enjoyed taking ceramics."

Palacios' advice to current students at the college revolves around enjoying the college journey, while at the same time doing their best.

"To future and new college students, your first choice of a field of study may or may not be right for you, but explore it anyway," Palacios said. "During the journey, I hope you confirm what field you definitely are interested in. Take notice of what you enjoy in your personal and/or professional life and see if that applies to your current field of study or another and make any necessary changes. Enjoy the journey, but do your best."

He also shares specific advice for students pursuing business administration.

"For those looking to pursue business administration, I advise you to think hard if you want general business management or an actual concentration: accounting, human resources, etc. The business field is one of the largest so make sure to make the right decision for yourself," said Palacios. (PR)

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4 SIS seniors selected as Questbridge National College Match finalists

Saipan International School is thrilled to announce that four of its seniors—Ian Song, Jackie Zhen, MJ Magno, and Christian Newman—have been named finalists in the prestigious Questbridge National College Match Program. This marks the first time in the school's history that four students have been recognized as finalists in the same year.

With a senior class of just 26 students, the selection of these four scholars represents nearly one-fifth of the graduating class. Questbridge finalists are chosen based on their outstanding academic performance, leadership potential, and commitment to their communities, placing them among the top students nationwide.

"We couldn't be prouder of Ian, Jackie, MJ, and Christian for this remarkable achievement," said Dr. Ron Snyder, headmaster. "Their success reflects their hard work, the support from their families, and the dedication of our faculty to fostering academic excellence."

SIS' robust Advanced Placement program, which includes the highly respected AP Capstone program, has been instrumental in helping these students reach this level of success. The AP Capstone program encourages students to develop critical thinking, research, and communication skills through AP Seminar and AP Research. These courses, along with a widest selection of AP offerings in the CNMI, have provided students with rigorous college-level academic experiences.



In recognition of its commitment to advanced academics, SIS has also been named to the AP Honor Roll with Platinum distinction, highlighting the school's success in providing high-quality AP programs to its students. "The Questbridge finalists are an incredible example of how our AP program helps students excel not only in academics but also in preparing for highly competitive opportunities," said Angela Taflinger, SIS counselor. "Their achievements reflect the strength of our AP courses and the dedication of our students to pursue excellence."

As Questbridge finalists, Song, Zhen, Magno, and Newman now have the opportunity to be matched with one of the organization's 50+ partner colleges, which include some of the most prestigious universities in the nation, and could receive full four-year scholarships.

SIS is a premier educational institution in the Northern

Mariana Islands, providing a well-rounded and rigorous curriculum from pre-K to 12th grade. With a focus on aca-

demic excellence, leadership, and community service, SIS prepares students for success in a global society. (PR)

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Saipan International School seniors Ian Song, Jackie Zhen, MJ Magno, and Christian Newman have been named finalists in the prestigious Questbridge National College Match Program.

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Attorney for Petitioner Antonio B. Cabrera

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:	Civil Action No.: 24-0125-CV
MARIA CONCEPCION CABRERA,	NOTICE OF HEARING
Decedent.	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition of Antonio B. Cabrera for the Decree of Final Distribution in this case will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 31st day of October, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 17th day of October, 2024.

/s/
Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) will conduct a public hearing at the New Cafeteria Building, next to Building D, Marianas High School, Bwaay Lane, Susupe, Saipan, on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., on the application of J&P Holdings CNMI LLC, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed \$8,271,600.00 for a new passenger aviation company focusing on interisland transportation. All pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CEDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its office at the CEDA Building, 2390 Beach Road, Oleai, Saipan.

/s/ Derek T. Sasamoto
Acting Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-25

PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGES PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("the CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal ("the RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide maintenance, service, and repairs to its three (3) Passenger Boarding Bridges (PBB) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning October 18, 2024, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or by credit card. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the RFP Package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the proposer awarded for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., November 08, 2024 at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building. The purpose of this conference is to allow potential proposers an opportunity to present questions and obtain clarification relative to any facet of this solicitation. While attendance at this conference will not be a prerequisite to submitting a proposal, proposers who intend to submit a proposal are encouraged to attend. Any site visit may be coordinated with Zachary Reyes of the CPA by calling telephone numbers (670)237-6535. Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing through the CPA Airport Manager via email at frank.duenas@cnmiports.com on or before close of business, November 13, 2024.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs of the three (3) Passenger Boarding Bridges, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport /RFP-006-25". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. Local Time, November 19, 2024**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: October 18, 2024

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

After storms, climate change takes center stage in presidential race

The United States isn't prepared for a future shaped by the climate crisis. That includes Hampton Roads, where rising seas and sinking land conspire to deliver more frequent and more destructive flooding with each passing year.

There are other important issues shaping political campaigns this year, from the economy to immigration, but few will affect the daily lives of millions of Americans—and the future of our region—more than how we confront climate change. The need to curb harmful emissions and bolster at-risk communities should weigh heavily on voters as they make their choices at the polls.

The signs of a changing climate are ever present in the United States, from deadly heat waves and prolonged drought to insatiable wildfires and destructive flooding. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data, the nation experienced 19 billion-dollar weather disasters in the first seven months of this year alone—taxing the resources available to storm victims and increasing the financial burden on states and localities.

That doesn't include the two hurricanes, Helene and Mitch, that devastated the U.S. in recent days. While powerful tropical systems form every year, a warming planet—and, specifically, record high water temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico—supercharged those storms and contributed to their catastrophic destruction.

Helene would have been a powerful storm in cooler times, but scientists at the Imperial College London calculated that the rain was 10% greater and the winds 13% stronger due to warmer temperatures. Similarly, Milton's rapid intensification from a tropical depression to a Category 5 hurricane in a 48-hour span wouldn't be possible without extremely warm water in the Gulf.

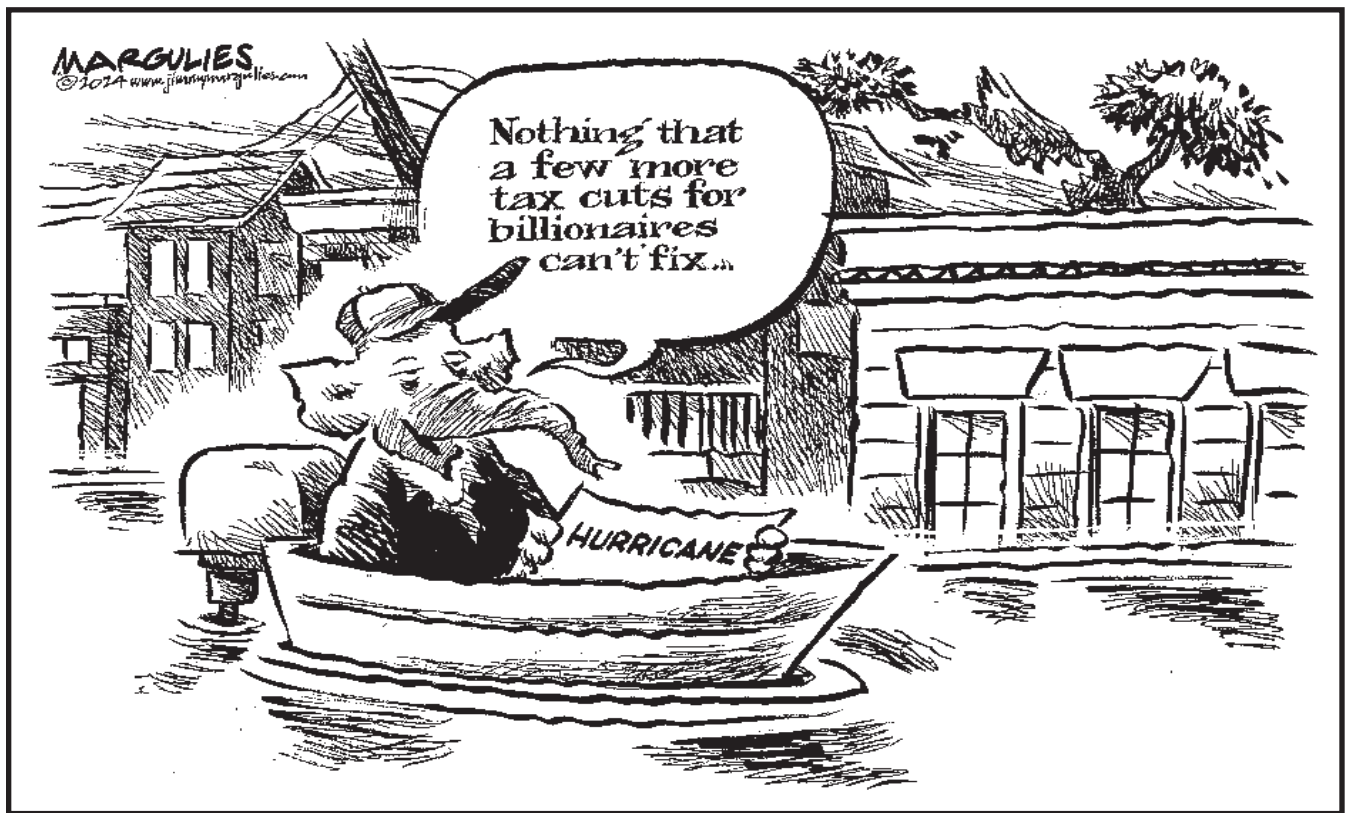
Climate researchers have outlined the risks of global warming for years, only to have their warnings dismissed by skeptics and ignored by too many policy-makers. The United States still ranks behind only China for its carbon dioxide emissions, and has been slow to embrace a transition to cleaner energy sources that can cut pollution while generating new economic opportunities for workers and business.

The sluggish pace of improving the resilience of vulnerable communities has similarly lacked the urgency to meet this challenge. The water continues to rise, flooding exacts an ever-greater toll and places such as Miami, New Orleans and, of course, Hampton Roads are not prepared for it.

Thankfully, those initiatives have picked up momentum in recent years. On the federal level, the Inflation Reduction Act put \$400 billion toward clean energy programs and resilience projects—the most significant legislative effort to fight climate change in U.S. history. And the Virginia Clean Economy Act requires the commonwealth to generate 100% of its power through carbon-free sources by 2050.

While those efforts and others like them represent progress, resilience is another matter entirely. Hampton Roads alone

See STORMS on Page 7



Disasters like Helene and Milton test leaders. Trump fails every time

In 2019, residents of Alabama were unnecessarily alarmed after then-President Donald Trump incorrectly said Hurricane Dorian was headed their way. However, instead of acknowledging he made a mistake, Trump questioned the National Weather Service and showed Americans a falsified weather map—which is against the law.

Today the former president is spewing lies about relief efforts and federal resources at a time when those affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton need guidance and aid. State and local Republicans have asked him to stop, because apparently misinformation mucks up rescue and relief efforts. Of course, Trump doesn't care so long as his lies also muck up the election.

What can I say? Same Trump, different year.

After he intentionally played down the threat of COVID-19 in those initial months of 2020, Trump said he purposefully misled the public to prevent panic. As a result, we were ill-prepared as a country. Our hospitals became quickly overrun, with people dying in school gyms and bodies held in refrigerated trucks as morgues overflowed.

The pandemic began with him lying to us about the severity of the virus. Four years later, and once again Trump's instinct as a leader during a national crisis is to lie to the American people and complain about "The View."

Elections have consequences. The first Trump term added \$8.4 trillion to the national debt and forced rape victims to give birth after the overturning of Roe vs. Wade by Trump justices. If you flip through Project 2025, the plan conservatives put together to reshape the federal government under a second Trump administration, you'll see that Round 2 would be much worse.

Trump would even make natural disasters worse.

The 2025 blueprint calls for chopping up and selling off large chunks of the federal government's agency devoted to gathering data about weather—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That's where the National Hurricane Center is housed. The expert who suggested that Trump scrap this agency for parts, Thomas F. Gilman, was a lifer in the automobile industry before joining Trump's Commerce Department in 2019, the same year Trump redrew the route of a hurricane with a Sharpie.

Project 2025 sets out to replace tens of thousands of experienced civil servants who have relevant expertise with political appointees who are first loyal to Trump—people like Gilman. If you're still wondering how bad that could be, consider that while the nation was bracing for Hurricane Milton—on the heels of Hurricane Helene—one of Trump's allies, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., used her platform to tell Americans "they" control the weather.

She didn't say who "they" are, how "they" are doing it or what House Republicans would do to stop ... "they." It sounds nonsensical because it is. But do not conflate nonsensical with inconsequential. Elections have consequences.

Greene might believe 9/11 was a hoax, but Republicans who know better placed her on the Homeland Security Committee to

By LZ GRANDERSON

Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



appease Trump. The committee's official website states that it was formed "in 2002 in the aftermath of September 11, 2001," and yet GOP leadership put a denier on the panel to appease someone who they know is lying about hurricane relief efforts right now. Loyalty to Trump is the only currency that matters to some of these people. Not expertise, not traditional conservative values, not integrity.

That's how the party of Lincoln has sadly become the party that responds to national emergencies by scapegoating others: claiming "they" control the weather; "they" are eating pets; "they" are paid actors rather than traumatized survivors of a school shooting. To this day, House Speaker Mike Johnson refuses to say who won the 2020 election. Instead when reporters ask, he accuses them of hurling "gotcha questions" at him, which may be good for his relationship with Trump but doesn't help the country in any way.

All of which brings me here: For more than 50 years, since Richard M. Nixon faced off against John F. Kennedy, televised debates have been a benchmark in presidential politics. With Trump at the center of attention, the first Republican primary debate of 2016 gave Fox the most-watched nonsports event in cable history. The second debate also brought high ratings. Trump didn't start skipping debates in the primary until Fox News announced it would be using video of previous appearances to hold candidates accountable for their words.

That's why he and his running mate, Sen. JD Vance (R-Ohio), oppose fact-checking during debates and interviews. Accountability is why Trump avoided debating Ambassador Nikki Haley during the 2024 primary. It's why he got into a fight with journalists at a news conference this past summer. It's why he's afraid to debate Vice President Kamala Harris again.

When a businessman is accustomed to escaping consequences for his misdeeds by filing for bankruptcy as often as Trump has, I can see why he'd be uncomfortable with being held accountable.

However, a president or candidate doesn't get to avoid accountability any more than the country can escape the consequences of an election. Trump's lies in office did damage. His lies today are hurting people who need help. And no one should be surprised: In every crisis, Trump has shown himself to be a liar, not a leader.

Charging through barriers

Improved access has been a priority for many organizations that fight for the rights of people with disabilities throughout the United States, and it is no different from the work being carried out at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. or NMPASI.

Years ago, we christened ourselves with the name The Posse, a play on the pronunciation of our acronym. The phrase “The Posse, charging through barriers” brings to mind images from the old American West, in which a group of common folks accompany the town sheriff to assist him in bringing down outlaws who were causing trouble in town. The outlaws would barricade themselves inside a barn and the posse would smash through the door and bring them to justice. I always felt like I was a part of something good being a member of The Posse.

In modern times, the barriers we charge through are not only physical barriers that prevent people with disabilities from moving through different aspects of life, but also include stigma and discrimination. Laws have been in place since the 1970s and the 1990s to remove barriers and allow people with disabilities to

access community services such as, getting into grocery stores. Yet still today those barriers exist. I see it every day where people feel the need to park in an accessible (blue) parking space, because it’s raining or the entrance is too far. Community education can only go so far. We need our law enforcement officers to start doing just that: enforcing the law.

Other barriers plaguing our community include access to quality and appropriate health care. It is difficult for someone who works and earns around \$40,000 a year to get access to the health care they need through referral off-island, but think about those people unable to work due to a disability. They make on average \$990 a month, including \$20 in food stamps, how do we as a society expect them to have the same access?

On Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, at 5pm at the American Memorial Park theater, NMPASI will be hosting a screening of a documentary titled *Accessing Democracy*. In the film, individuals with various disabilities from the east coast of the United States share their experiences in gaining access in their communities. While they live half a world away, they encounter many of the same barriers as we do here in the Marianas. The film also discusses how people with disabilities need to have access to their law-makers in order to create real change in their communities.

By GREG BORJA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Greg Borja is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.



We invite the community to join us on Friday evening to learn more about the struggles people with disabilities experience, including their access to the legislature.

NMPASI is a 501(c)(3), private, non-profit organization that was established in 1993 and designated as the CNMI’s protection & advocacy system that operates with the mission, “to protect the human, civil, and legal rights of individuals with disabilities.”

For more information about architectural barriers or program access, contact NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/4 or visit us at the Marianas Business Plaza, 5th floor, Room 505.

About me

The only thing I find difficult in my ongoing campaign for the seat of CNMI delegate to U.S. Congress is talking about me personally. I have an almost visceral reaction to hearing myself even attempting to articulate what a good, competent person I am and some of the good I’ve been able to do for the community (in so many words). No doubt it all stems from a childhood of being taught that humility is important and that talking about one’s self runs contrary to it.

“Shemenei pwe osapw kai namiki,” (Translation: “Remember not to be namaike,” a word which I believe comes from the Japanese and is used to mean arrogant, or show-off or essentially putting yourself above others) are literally the last words my late Mortlockese grandmother said to me the last time I saw her when she came to see me off at the airport on my way to school in the states. Her goodbyes to me came with these parting words of wisdom. Admittedly, it took me years to fully grasp what she meant which was, in part, not to think so highly of myself and much less “toot my own horn.”

The question now becomes how (or maybe rather if) I can win an election without talking more about myself as I am

consistently being told that I should? My thought and response to that is... I hope so—I hope there is still a place in the heart of our electorate for leadership that isn’t over-occupied with self-aggrandizing.

It’s been a little over three months since, with the blessings of those who know me best, we declared my candidacy for CNMI’s delegate to U.S. Congress.

Against tremendous odds, we’ve mounted a simple campaign to give our voters a different choice, a choice we feel is more befitting the spirit of our islands. A choice that isn’t beholden to big money, party politics, but rather only to the collective interests of all who call the CNMI home—we very simply can’t have it both ways.

We felt then, as we do now, that the other candidates are not representative of us and much less the islanders-of-old on whose shoulders we stand. We are who we are because of the courage, wisdom and I dare say humility of those who came before us. The question for us now is what kinds of shoulders will we leave for those who come after us to stand on?

We believe that our strength and unity depend on leadership that is committed to safeguarding and preserving our Commonwealth as a whole, not on individual, self-preserva-

By JIM RAYPHAND

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is a former director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.



tion through political gamesmanship—some would do well to be reminded accordingly.

I’m in this race because I know what it takes and I have the proven experience to lead others in service to our community—it all starts with a dignified, even-keeled approach to every issue, with all people, all the time. There is not room for personal egos in this job.

Our next delegate in U.S. Congress needs to be someone with a proven, unblemished record of placing a high value on dignity and respect for all. We think that choice is clear and look forward to seeing what the rest of our community thinks.

Why are we so obsessed with cease-fires?

War is never a good thing, but as terrible as it is to say, sometimes it is necessary. It is understandable that once a war begins, the horror of human suffering that always comes with it leads many well-intentioned people to think that anything that might stop the fighting—even for a short time—is good. Wouldn’t a cease-fire help—as John Lennon would say—to “give peace a chance”?

Alas, this is not always the case.

Cease-fires can, under some circumstances, be useful. If both parties to a war are interested in peace and willing to compromise on issues in contention, then having a break in the carnage of war can definitely be a positive thing. It allows for a moment of calm when negotiations lead to a breakthrough and offer a chance for peace. And it also provides an opportunity for humanitarian aid to reach those who have been caught up in the war zone.

However, cease-fires work only if both parties are interested in achieving peace and are trustworthy. Cease-fires are based on the assumption that the parties in a war are rational actors and have found themselves in an unfortunate position and are looking for ways to back away from it. They depend on both parties abiding by the terms of the cease-fire.

Unfortunately, there are some people with whom one cannot negotiate. And as sad as it is, some are not honest. Some countries and some non-state actors want war and even welcome the suffering of the innocent. It is sometimes tricky for basically good people to grasp this. Their weakness is that they don’t understand that many people are nothing like them. They are good human beings but fundamentally naïve in the face of evil. The

people most likely to call for cease-fires amid conflict do not understand those who have no interest in peace.

Consider terrorist organizations like Hezbollah and Hamas. For them, cease-fires are held in contempt. They do not want to reason with their enemy. They are not interested in compromise. And they are not honest. These are sad facts, but they are facts nonetheless. Cease-fires are, at best, only tactical for them—an opportunity to regain strength and rearm after suffering a setback.

Hezbollah’s 1985 manifesto makes it clear that its attacks on Israel are not just about defending themselves against perceived Israeli aggression. It calls for the complete annihilation of Israel and pledges loyalty to Iran’s supreme leader, which is why it is designated by the United States and many other countries as a terrorist organization. Its goal is not peace under any circumstances or conditions with Israel. The Hamas Manifesto of 1988 clearly states, “Initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences, are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement.” Their goal is to eliminate not only Israel but Jews everywhere.

For groups like these and some countries, there is no interest in a peaceful solution to a conflict. They want the conflict. Their goal is the complete destruction of their perceived enemy. Nothing less is acceptable. So, when President Joe Biden called recently for a cease-fire between Hezbollah and Israel in Lebanon and the Australian prime minister called for restraint “on both sides,” they are revealing a fundamental misunderstanding of the nature of the conflict. They believe

By SOLOMON D. STEVENS

Tribune News Service

Solomon D. Stevens is the author of “Religion, Politics, and the Law” (co-authored with Peter Schotten) and “Challenges to Peace in the Middle East.” He wrote this for InsideSources.com.



that a pause in the conflict is always a good thing, but there is no interest in peace for Hezbollah or Hamas.

During World War II, Winston Churchill understood the threat of Nazism better than anyone. He knew one could not compromise with Adolf Hitler, which is why he said that nothing but “unconditional surrender” to the evil of Nazism was acceptable. Peace was the goal, but making deals with evil actors was folly.

In 2020, the United States agreed, in the hope that it would facilitate peace, to a cease-fire with al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden’s terrorist group that was responsible for the attacks on us on 9/11. As we began to withdraw our troops, al-Qaeda issued a statement that “war against the U.S. will be continuing on all fronts.” The cease-fire did not lead to peace.

Our obsession with cease-fires is easy to understand. We want peace, but we are horrified by war. However, genuine peace is only possible when both parties in a conflict want it. A pause in the conflict will not make progress possible. As sad as it is, sometimes we have no alternative but, in Hamlet’s words, to “take up arms against a sea of troubles and by opposing end them.”

STORMS

From page 6

needs an estimated \$40 billion to build floodwalls, living shorelines, pump stations, tidal gates and other measures to hold back the water. And Helene made clear that even inland communities will require plenty of help to prepare for a future of extreme weather events.

While Congress holds the federal purse strings, the president

can shape the policy discussion and advance initiatives that can help reduce greenhouse emissions and assist resilience efforts by states and localities.

Trump has called climate change a hoax and, as president, withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement, loosened regulations intended to reduce emissions and sought to expand oil drilling. His dismissal of climate concerns and opposition to clean energy efforts are well documented.

Harris has called climate change an existential threat to the nation, cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of the Inflation

Reduction Act and, as California attorney general, prosecuted polluters in that state. She would continue investment in green energy and resilience, aiming to address both the cause and effects of global warming.

For Hampton Roads and countless other communities threatened by a changing climate, the contrast between the two couldn’t be clearer. While the race may not pivot on this issue, the outcome will have a lasting effect on our region’s future.

Benavente gets 7 years for burglary, firearm possession

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Brandon Lizama Benavente will spend the next seven years behind bars following his guilty plea to burglary and illegal possession of a firearm. The sentence was handed down by Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo last Thursday, Oct. 10, after Benavente admitted to violating his probation in a prior case. Benavente faced charges in three separate criminal cases. He pled guilty to burglary as well as illegal possession of a

firearm. Both cases carried a 10-year sentence, but Govendo suspended all except seven years of imprisonment, with credit for 252 days already served. Notably, Benavente will not be eligible for parole or early release in either case. In addition to the current cases, Benavente violated his probation and will serve the remaining four years of his previously suspended sentence, also without the possibility of parole or early release. All sentences will run concurrently, with his release scheduled for Feb. 1, 2031.

Upon his release, Benavente will be placed on probation for 10 years. As part of the conditions of his probation, he must pay a \$1,210 probation fee and \$93,500 in restitution to the victim, while the \$350 restitution owed in the probation case will be converted to a civil judgment. Additionally, he is required to perform 160 hours of community service. The court also ordered Benavente to testify against his co-defendant, Consolacion Sablan, in any future hearings or court proceedings related to the case. This includes provid-

ing truthful testimony at trial or during revocation hearings for other individuals involved, as specified in the judgment and commitment order. Benavente was represented by attorney Vincent Seman, while assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas acted on behalf of the government. The charges against Benavente stem from a search warrant executed by the Department of Public Safety's Rapid Response Team on Feb. 1, 2024. The search warrant, signed by Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho a day earlier,

targeted the apartment and vehicle shared by Benavente and Sablan in connection with a burglary and theft investigation. During the search of their apartment, law enforcement found a Daisy .22 long rifle leaning against a mirror, along with stolen items linked to the burglary. A search of the couple's vehicle, aided by a K-9 unit, uncovered a broken glass pipe, a small Ziploc bag containing marijuana, and two orange pills in the dashboard ashtray. Inside the apartment, police also found multiple mini-Ziploc bags filled with a crystal-

line-like substance scattered across various locations, including a table, drawer, and sofa bag. A field test confirmed that the substance was methamphetamine, with a total of 4.2 grams seized. In addition, officers confiscated 30 rounds of .22 caliber ammunition. A check of the rifle's serial number revealed that it was unregistered, adding to the list of charges against Benavente. With his co-defendant Sablan awaiting her own trial, Benavente's cooperation with authorities could play a pivotal role in the outcome of the case.

Power service interruption at CHCC on Oct. 19




The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power service interruption on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024. See additional information below:

- Date: Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024
- Power Service Interruption Time: 8am-5pm
- Area(s) Affected: Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

■ Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to perform electrical connection work at CHCC. CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we work to ensure reliable service for our customers. For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-005-25
SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 11, 2024: 4:00 P.M.

“CPA WEBSITE UPGRADE, DEVELOPMENT, AND MANAGEMENT”

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING OCTOBER 11, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.


PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED “CPA WEBSITE UPGRADE, DEVELOPMENT, AND MANAGEMENT (RFP-005-25)” TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 11, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: October 11, 2024



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500 / 1 FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
“Car Rental Concessions”
for: CPA-RFP-002-25
(Saipan) CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-20
(Tinian) CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-30
(Rota) CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-40

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of a total of three (3) concessions, one (1) per respective Airport, granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, and/or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, and/or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.


The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-25 is Friday, October 18, 2024, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than Friday, November 8, 2024.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) by or before 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Please ensure that your proposal clearly indicates the correct concession number corresponding to the location for which you are submitting. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 / 1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-25

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 08, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

“SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 30 UNITS SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS”

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING OCTOBER 09, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.


PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED “SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 30 UNITS SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (RFP-002-25)” TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 08, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2024



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of October 18, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

NO.	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Marianas Surf Skate League, Inc. (MSSL)	9/24/2024 SSLRm-2024-086	Boogie Down Surf Competition	Obyan Beach, Saipan	Shoreline and Lagoon & Reef	Application Tabled* 9/26/2024
2.	Henry K. Pangelinan & Associates, LLC.	9/27/2024 SPIm-2024-088	Geotechnical Soil Investigation	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 10/4/2024
3.	Department of Public Works (DPW)	10/2/2024 SSCHm-2025-001	Repair and Rehabilitation of Sugar Dock Pavilions and Amenities	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 10/4/2024
4.	Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation (NMNPSF)	10/16/2024 SSLRm-2025-002	2024 Micro Cup	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline and Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 10/16/2024

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Rotary to hold Dance-A-Thon Fundraiser for polio eradication efforts

By SKYLEE SANTOS
santosskylee@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Rotary Club of Saipan is hosting the Zumba Dance-A-Thon Fundraiser this coming Friday Oct. 18, 2024 at the Garapan Central Park’s Roundhouse from 5pm to 8pm.

The fundraiser is part of a global effort to observe World Polio Day on Oct. 24 which aims to end the disease that continues to affect children worldwide.

Tickets for the Dance-A-Thon are priced at \$5 and event-goers will also be able to purchase commemorative T-shirts for \$10, along with raffle tickets for prizes. The fundraiser is open to the community, with proceeds supporting Rotary’s efforts to raise

awareness and provide vaccination programs in vulnerable areas. Local Zumba instructors and coaches will lead the event, contributing to an evening of fitness, fun, and philanthropy.

In addition, a proclamation signing to mark World Polio Day will be held during the Rotary Club of Saipan’s general membership meeting on Oct. 22, 2024, at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. The proclamation will highlight the importance of ongoing global and local efforts to eradicate polio.

Since 1985, Rotary International has contributed over \$2.7 billion toward the fight against polio. Rotary’s involvement, along with partnerships with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion, has helped reduce polio cases by more than 99.9%. On Saipan, the local Rotary Club has raised a total of \$106,734 in donations as part of these efforts.

Polio continues to pose a threat in some parts of the world, despite significant progress. Rotary remains committed to ensuring every child is vaccinated and aims to raise an additional \$50 million each year to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

For more information on the Dance-A-Thon and how to get involved, contact Rotary Club of Saipan president Joann T. Aquino at rotarysaipan@gmail.com or call (670) 285-6361. Updates can also be found on Instagram (@rotarySaipan) and Facebook (@rotaryclubsaipan).



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

PUBLIC NOTICE (October 17, 2024)

Pursuant to Section 5 A. of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“NMHC”) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (“CDBG-DR”) Program’s Action Plan (“AP”), this is to notify the general public about these proposed substantial and non-substantial amendments to the CDBG-DR AP and afford citizen participation and the opportunity to comment on these proposed amendments.

The general public has thirty (30) days from publication date of this Public Notice to submit comments on these proposed changes to the CDBG-DR AP. Substantial amendments are required when there is a change in program benefit/eligibility criteria, addition/deletion of an activity, or reallocation of substantial amounts.

A substantial amendment will also be required if any program changes exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000). Substantial amendments must provide a reasonable opportunity (at least 30 days) for citizen comment. All changes must be documented by NMHC’s CDBG-DR Program to provide both necessary and reasonable justifications. All substantial amendments will include the following:

1. The exact identification of which content is being added, deleted, or changed;
2. A clear description of where funds are moved from/to; and
3. The updated and revised budget after re-allocation of funding.

Conversely, non-substantial amendments to the Action Plan are not subject to citizen participation but NMHC decided to include a non-substantial amendment to the said Plan in this Public Notice for informational purposes only. Furthermore, all action plan amendments will be available via the CNMI CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com and hardcopies may be obtained at any of the NMHC central and CDBG-DR offices located on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by those who do not have access to the Internet. Notifying the public is of paramount importance as these funds are largely dependent on public participation and the remaining unmet need to be assessed. NMHC will utilize the following avenues/outlets to notify the public of the CDBG-DR Program:

- Notices in the local newspaper
- Radio announcements
- Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Last, NMHC will take reasonable steps to ensure very low-, low-, and moderate-income persons, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access and an equal opportunity to participate in this important CDBG-DR activity and in accordance to prescribed policies and procedures embedded in the CDBG-DR Program’s Citizen Participation Plan. The aforesaid and complete Citizen Participation Plan may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website: www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com or found at Subsection 4.E.1. Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the CDBG-DR Action Plan (pages 72 - 74), as amended. A copy of the Action Plan, as amended by these proposed changes, may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website at: www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com or obtained at any of the NMHC offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Proposed changes are highlighted in yellow. The corresponding page numbers reflect the actual page numbers of the most current action plan, as amended and posted on NMHC’s CDBG-DR website at: <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com/action-plan/action-plan-documents/>

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT NO. 04 Summary and Modifications

Pursuant to **Subsection 5.D.**, the following proposed modifications shall go into effect after the required 30-day public comment period ends and concurrence from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The proposed modifications, as presented herein, were prompted by the following reason(s):

1. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) has determined the necessity to allocate additional funding towards road, power, and water repair projects under the Low Mod Area Benefit (LMA) National Objective. This need stems from the significant damage caused by qualifying storms that have impacted vital infrastructure, disrupting essential services and community functioning. NMHC proposes to reprogram \$19,565,454.32 from Public Facilities Activities to Roads Activities (\$6,325,166) and Utilities Activities (\$13,240,288.32).
2. **Evaluation and Expansion of Projects:** A comprehensive evaluation revealed that the CNMI’s infrastructure, particularly in the areas of road and utilities, requires greater diversification and support. The damage assessment, limited resources, and cost of inflation led to the identification of additional projects and additional funding needed on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, which have been severely impacted. These additional projects are crucial to restoring and improving critical infrastructure and services, hence the need to increase the budget allocated for these activities.
3. **Infrastructure Activities for Disaster Recovery:** The Substantial Amendment also allows NMHC to adjust the program’s Infrastructure Plan. By reallocating funds, the agency can provide targeted assistance to disaster victims by accelerating the pace of infrastructure recovery. Given the importance of roads, utilities, and basic services to the economic and social stability of the affected areas, modifying the funding allocations is vital for disaster recovery efforts.
4. This amendment is necessary for the CNMI’s infrastructures that were greatly impacted by the 2018 storms. In order to target heavily impacted areas and make improvements, NMHC is proposing to amend the CNMI Action Plan to allocate sufficient funding to critical infrastructure projects. Doing so will not only greatly impact the strength and resilience, but also, recovery of the CNMI. NMHC strongly believes that this amendment is necessary and funds will ensure that the resources are appropriately allocated to the most heavily impacted areas.
5. During the planning process, it became clear that the most impacted areas were Saipan and Tinian, and that infrastructure activities on these islands should be prioritized. The scoring criteria established in the action plan (refer to page 51) will guide how projects and activities are selected, with a strong emphasis on the infrastructure’s broad benefits across the islands.
 - **Benefit to the Population:** Due to the small size of the CNMI islands, any infrastructure improvements will have widespread benefits for the entire population. Moreover, the high percentage of low- to moderate-income benefit area and over 90% of the population are minority residents ensures that these activities will provide broad, equitable benefits. These factors also ensure economic stability so residents can remain in homes and residences and retain their jobs because the infrastructure is improved. The actual size of the Islands also means that all persons will benefit from most of the infrastructure improvements.
 - **Economic Stability:** Improved infrastructure will play a critical role in ensuring economic stability for residents. Enhanced roads, power grids, and water systems will help maintain residential stability, allowing individuals to retain their homes and jobs, which are key factors in sustaining local economies.
6. The transfer of funds under Substantial Amendment No. 04 is necessary to address the infrastructure challenges exacerbated by recent storms. Without this amendment, NMHC would not have the flexibility to allocate sufficient resources to critical infrastructure projects. By modifying the budget and increasing the available funding for road and utility projects, the CNMI can make measurable progress in recovery, particularly in the areas that have been hit hardest. These improvements are also essential for long-term resilience in the face of future natural disasters.

Given the substantial impact these infrastructure projects will have on both the recovery and future resilience of the CNMI, we strongly believe that this amendment is justified and necessary. The transfer of funds will ensure that resources are appropriately allocated to the most urgent areas, allowing us to support disaster victims and stabilize the affected communities.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CDBG-DR ALLOCATIONS

	Previous Allocation	Change	Revised Allocation
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	\$254,324,000		\$254,324,000
HOUSING PROGRAMS	\$137,923,600		\$138,423,600
Homeowner Rehab and Recon	\$39,457,033		\$39,957,033
Single-Family New Const Dev	\$59,009,534		\$59,009,534
Affordable Rental Housing Dev	\$39,457,033		\$39,457,033
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM	\$91,279,335		\$91,279,335
Port Facilities	\$0		\$0
Public Facilities	\$58,881,508	(\$19,565,454.32)	\$39,316,053.68
Roads	\$10,650,000	\$6,325,166.00	\$16,975,166
Utilities	\$21,747,827	\$13,240,288.32	\$34,988,115.32
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$8,660,000		\$8,660,000
ADMINISTRATION	\$12,617,718		\$12,617,718
PLANNING	\$3,843,347		\$3,343,347

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Figure 22. **Proposed Projects and Estimated Budgets.** This details the specific budgets of HUD-funded activities.

PROGRAMS	TOTAL ALLOCATION	PERCENT OF TOTAL ALLOCATION BY PROGRAM	TOTAL ALLOCATION BY PROJECT TYPE
HOUSING (includes delivery costs)	\$138,423,600		
Homeowner Rehabilitation & Reconstruction	\$39,957,033	29%	54%
Single Family New Construction Development	\$59,009,534	43%	
Affordable Rental Housing Development	\$39,457,033	29%	
SUB TOTAL HOUSING	\$138,423,600	100%	
INFRASTRUCTURE	\$91,279,335		
Port Facilities	\$0	0%	36%
Public Facilities	\$39,316,053.68	43%	
Roads	\$16,975,166	19%	
Utilities	\$34,988,115.32	38%	
SUB TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	\$91,279,335	100%	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$8,660,000	100%	3%
ADMINISTRATION	\$12,617,718	100%	5%
PLANNING	\$3,343,347	100%	2%
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS OF FUNDS	\$254,324,000	100%	100%

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a. Allocation Amount

PROPOSED PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST
Port Facilities	\$0
Public Facilities	\$39,316,053.68
Roads	\$16,975,166
Utilities	\$34,988,115.32
TOTAL FOR INFRASTRUCTURE	\$91,279,355
Performance Outcome	About 20-30 public facilities will be assisted

Written comments must reference “CNMI Action Plan – Substantial Amendment No. 04” and are due by November 16, 2024 and may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbgdr@nmhc.gov.net.

A substantial amendment is defined as a change in program benefit or eligibility criteria; the addition or deletion of an activity; or the allocation or reallocation of a monetary threshold specified by the grantee in its action plan. The CNMI monetary threshold for a substantial amendment is any changes in Action Plan amounts that exceed \$5 million. Substantial amendments are changes to an Action Plan which require a 30-day public comment period. All amendments will be listed on the CDBG-DR website sequentially.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU (October 17, 2024)

Sigun para i Seksiona 5 A. gi “Northern Marianas Housing Corporation” (“NMHC”) i “Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (“CDBG-DR”)” na Prugrâman “Action Plan” (“AP”), para u manafanungu’ i henerât pupbliku put esti i manmaproponi na “substantial” yan “non-substantial” na amenda siha gi CDBG-DR AP yan para u manâ’i i pupbliku tiempu para u fampattisipão yan i uputunidât para u famanoppi’ gi esti i manmaproponi na amenda siha. I henerât pupbliku debi na u ma’intrega hâlum i upiñon-ñiha gi halum trenta (30) dihas ginen i fetchan publikasion nu esti na Nutisia put esti i tinilaika ni manmaproponi siha gi CDBG-DR AP.

I “substantial” na amenda siha manaprisisu yanggin guaha tinilaika gi halum i prugrâman benifisiu/“criteria” i kuâlifikão, “addition/deletion” nu i aktibidât, o sino “reallocation i “substantial amount”. I “substantial” na amenda siempri lokku’i prumisiu yanggin kuatkuet na tinilaika siha gi prugrâma umupus i singku miyon pesos (\$5,000,000). I “substantial” na amenda debi na u pribeni rasonâppli na uputunidât (maseha 30 dihas) para upiñon pupbliku.

Todu i tinilaika siha debi na u madukumentu ni Prugrâman NMHC’s CDBG-DR para u pribeni todû i dos nisisâriu yan rasonâppli na “justification”. Todû i “substantial” na amenda siha siempri ingklusu i mantinattiyi:

1. I eksakto na aidentifikasion nu mânu na sinahguan manâ’yi, mafunas, pat matulaika;
2. Klâru na diskripsion nu ginen mânu/para mânu i fundu; yan
3. I mäs nuebu yan maribisa na “budget” dispues di i “re-allocation” nu i salâppi’.

Gi inâtlabis, i “non-substantial” na amenda siha para i “Action Plan” ti manmasuhetu para pättisipasion siudadanu lão i NMHC madisidi para u ingklusu i “non-substantial” na amenda para i mamensiona na Plãnu gi halum esti na Nutisia para infotmasion ha’ na rason siha. Yan mäs, todû i “action plan” na amenda siha siempri managuaha gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi www.cnmicdbg-dr.com yan siña machuli’ kopia gi ufisinan i NMHC yan i CDBG-DR siha ni gaigi iya Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta para etyi siha i ti siña ma’akses i “Internet”. I ninatutungu’ i pupbliku mampus impottânti sa’ esti na fundu dinipendi meggai gi pättisipasion pupbliku yan i tetenan ni ti matakka’ nisisita para u ma’ebalua.

I NMHC siempri ma’usa i mantinattiyi na “avenues/outlets” para u manafanungu’ i pupbliku put i Prugrâman CDBG-DR:

- Nutisia gi halum gaseta
- Anunsiu Rediu • Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Uttimu, i NMHC siempri ha chuli’ rasonâppli na manera para u na’siguru na i “very low-, low-,” yan “moderateincome” na petsona siha, kuntodu i tâotão ni gai disibidât, i gai inamku’ yan i tâotão ni “Limited English Proficiency (LEP)” na managuaha akses para u mäs makumprendi i prugrâma yan parehu na uputunidât para u fampattisipão gi halum esti impottânti na aktibidât i CDBG-DR ni kumunfotma yan i manmakâtâtga na “policies” yan “procedures” ni gaigi gi halum i Prugrâman CDBG-DR Citizen Participation Plan.” I manmamensiona yan kumplidu na “Citizen Participation Plan” siña ma’akses gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com o sino siña masodda’ gi Subsection 4.E.1. Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the CDBG-DR Action Plan (pages 72 - 74), ni ma amenda. I kopian i “Action Plan”, komu ma’amenda ginen esti na tinilaika na priniponi siha, siña ma’akses gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com o sino siña machuli’ kopia gi maseha mânu na ufisinan i NMHC iya Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta.



Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

“NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency”

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670)233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

GMS soars high at Primary Grade Forensic Competition

Green Meadow School celebrated a major victory at the recent Primary Grade Forensic Competition last Oct. 12 at Mt. Carmel School. Their young students, ages K-5, dominated the event, winning numerous awards in public speaking and interpretation. The school's K-2 division secured 26 total wins, including seven first-place finishes. The older students, grades 3-5, also excelled, capturing 29 total wins, including nine first-place finishes.

Green Meadow School is immensely proud of their students' achievements. These victories showcase the school's commitment to nurturing young talent and providing a supportive learning environment. The school's dedication to fostering confidence, creativity, and public speaking skills is evident in their students' outstanding performances.

GMS extends its gratitude to the students, parents, teachers, and coaches for their hard

work and dedication. The school remains committed to inspiring excellence in every student and ensuring a bright future for all.

Here's a breakdown of Green Meadow School's K-2 division wins:

- Dramatic Interpretation A**
- 1st: Liann Dreiel Mayor
 - 3rd: Jhaymie Rose Guevarra
 - 4th: Madison Maegan Claveria

- Dramatic Interpretation B**
- 1st: Aerith Rei Dondonilla

- Humorous Interpretation A**
- 2nd: Candace Devine Teregeyo
 - 3rd: Austin Russell Collada
 - 4th: Miah Lynn Angcoy

- 5th: Cade Daniel Canlas
- Humorous Interpretation B**
- 2nd: Sheena Marie Salam
 - 3rd: Romeo Leon De Vero
 - 4th: Savinia Noah-na Cabrera

- Reader's Forum A**
- 1st: Liann Dreiel Mayor
 - 3rd: Jhaymie Rose Guevarra

- Reader's Forum B**
- 2nd: Canary Faith Lilles
 - 3rd: Liam Ashton Naluz
 - 4th: Leondrake Barrios

- Declamation**
- 1st: Katrina Zoe Dayrit
 - 2nd: Ariel Faith Gabule

- Chamorro Speaking**
- 1st: April Joanne Celis

- Duo A**

- 1st: D'Andre Gison Dalida and Elliana Marie Salamat
- 2nd: Romeo Leon De Vero and Aerith Rei Dondonilla
- 3rd: Rhylee Jayde Sablan and Rheagan Jayde Sablan
- 4th: April Joanne Celis and Madison Maegan Claveria

- Choral Speaking A**
- 1st: Rhylee Jayde Sablan, Rheagan Jayde Sablan, Miah Lynn Angcoy, Sheena Marie Salamat, and Candace Devine Teregeyo
 - 2nd: Leonidas Drei Laniyo, Ryle Andrei Odicta, Cade Daniel Canlas, and Austin Russell Collada
 - 4th: Katrina Zoe Dayrit, Ariel Faith Gabule, and Rodolf Jr. Lopez

Here's a breakdown of Green Meadow School's 3-5 division wins:

- Dramatic Interpretation**
- 1st: Juliana Kai Ortiz

- 2nd: Jade Haven Quindoza

- Humorous Interpretation**
- 1st: Paul James Mendoza
 - 2nd: Christopher Leyland Duenas
 - 3rd: Colin James Lilles
 - 4th: Sansone Nikolai Cabrera

- Declamation**
- 1st: John Raphael Aguon
 - 2nd: Jeron Carl Marzo
 - 3rd: Princess Chloe Lopez

- Reader's Forum B**
- 1st: Avaline Jeney Jebehn
 - 4th: Chrismarie Nabetinan
 - 5th: Faith Chloe Dela Cruz

- Reader's Forum C**
- 1st: Roanne Palma
 - 2nd: Autumn D'Ann Pangelinan
 - 3rd: Princess Chloe Lopez
 - 5th: Jayden Rei Pulido

- Reader's Forum D**
- 1st: Jadean Bryana Balboa
 - 2nd: Jadynn Palacios
 - 5th: Jaira Hope Quindoza

- Chamorro Speaking**
- 2nd: Bentley Peter Jo Koshiro
 - 4th: James Kisa

- Duo A**
- 1st: John Raphael Aguon and Jayden Rei Pulido
 - 2nd: Juliana Kai Ortiz and Jadynn Palacios
 - 4th: Kira George and Colin James Lilles

- Duo B**
- 4th: Ysabella Ellin Dacuma and Kiani Jayde Delos Reyes

- Choral Speaking A**
- 1st: Faith Chloe Dela Cruz, Kira George, Avaline Jeney Jebehn, and Jaira Hope Quindoza
 - 2nd: Jadean Bryana Balboa, Ysabella Ellin Dacuma, Jade Haven Quindoza, Roanne Palma, and Kiani Jayde Delos Reyes

- Choral Speaking B**
- 1st: Ian Noel Escarcha, Chrismarie Nabetinan, Autumn D'Ann Pangelinan, and Elijah Mosiah Sansi
 - 2nd: Christopher Leyland Duenas, James Kisa, Jeron Carl Marzo, and Paul James Mendoza
- For more information about Green Meadow School and its various programs, visit their website or contact their office at (670) 235-2185. **(PR)**



Great career opportunities for service-oriented individuals to lead our team in the following management positions:

CHIEF ENGINEER

Responsible for the general administration of the Engineering Department including proper maintenance and repair of all buildings, fixtures, fittings and equipment as well as technical improvements, preventive maintenance and utilities consumption control.

Must have current certifications required with HVAC, Electrical and Water Treatment etc. and assist with Special Projects.

EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPER

Responsible for the administration, coordination, planning, scheduling and operations of the Housekeeping department. Supervises all Housekeeping employees and maintains a smooth, efficient service. Maintains superior quality rooms according to hotel standards.

You may email your resume to hr@guamplaza.com or you may complete an application by visiting our [www.guamplaza.com-career opportunities](http://www.guamplaza.com-career-opportunities)

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NoWriMo Preptober writing workshop this Saturday

Reminder that for NoWriMo Preptober, Marianas Writers Movement has a free and open-to-the public writing workshop this Saturday, Oct. 19, from 10am to 12 noon at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, VTC room.

The Marianas Writers Movement will be working on novel plot and structure. Hoping to get ready for National Novel Writing Month in November.

Who can tell your story better than you? Hint: no one. **(PR)**



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

PUBLIC NOTICE


10/04/2024

Notice for Public Comment

Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
	CDBG	PY2021 Unobligated Funds Available to commit		(\$71,973.83)		
	CDBG	PY2022 Unobligated Funds Available to commit		(\$19,483.47)		
IDIS#755	CDBG	Kagman Community Park, Phase 2 Project	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Office (DCCA)/Division of Youth Services (DYS)	\$195,766.80	(\$57,457.34)	\$138,309.46
IDIS# 762	CDBG	Purchase of 2 Rescue Watercraft Vehicles and 2 All Terrain vehicles for the CNMI DFEMS	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)	\$141,200.00	(\$6,110.00)	\$135, 090.00
IDIS#760	CDBG	PY2022 CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost		\$196,025.00	(49,806.05)	\$146,218.95
IDIS#772	CDBG	PY2023 CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost		\$196,025.00	(\$45,169.31)	\$150,855.69
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:		(\$250,000.00)		
NEW	CDBG	Purchase of Equipment for Firetruck	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)		\$250,000.00	
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:		\$250,000.00		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) publishes a "Public Notice" on reprogramming funds over \$100,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and in Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before November 6, 2024, no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio @ (670) 234-6866/(670)233-0076




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DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP25-OPD/DPW No. 42500001

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"MULTI-SHREDDER OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELIZABETH S. BALAJADIA
ACTING DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Life & Style

Liam Payne, former One Direction member, dies at 31

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Former One Direction singer Liam Payne, 31, whose chart-topping British boy band generated a global following of swooning fans, was found dead Wednesday after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires, local officials said.

Buenos Aires police said in a statement that Payne fell from the third floor of the Casa Sur Hotel in the trendy Palermo neighborhood of Argentina's capital, resulting in "extremely serious injuries." Medics confirmed his death on the spot, the statement said.

Pablo Policicchio, the communications director for the Buenos Aires Security Ministry, said in a statement to The Associated Press that Payne "had jumped from the balcony of his room." Police rushed to the hotel in response to an emergency call just after 5 p.m. local time, he said, warning of an "aggressive man who could be under the influence of drugs or alcohol."

The hotel manager can be heard on a 911 call obtained by the AP saying they had "a



Liam Payne of One Direction performs during the Honda Civic Tour at Qualcomm Stadium on Thursday, July 9, 2015, in San Diego, Calif.

guest who is overwhelmed with drugs and alcohol ... He's destroying the entire room and, well, we need you to send someone, please." The manager's voice became more anxious as the call went on, noting

the room had a balcony.

Alberto Crescenti, head of the state emergency medical system, told Argentina's Todo Noticias TV channel that authorities were investigating the circumstances of his death and

conducting an autopsy.

Payne had been vocal about struggling with alcoholism, posting a video in July 2023 to his YouTube channel where he said he had been sober for six months after receiving

treatment. Representatives for Payne did not immediately return emails and calls.

Dozens of One Direction fans flocked from across Buenos Aires to the Casa Sur Hotel after the news broke, forming lines that spilled into the cordoned-off street outside the hotel where police stood sentinel. Forensic investigators were seen exiting the hotel, from where Payne's body was removed around three hours after the fall. Young women filming with their cellphones expressed shock and heartbreak as a makeshift memorial with rows of candles and bouquets quickly grew outside the hotel.

"I didn't think he was going to die so young," 21-year-old Isabella Milesi told the AP.

Payne was one of five members of One Direction, which formed when they each auditioned for the British singing competition series "The X Factor" in 2010, two years after Payne's first attempt to get on the show. At 16 the second time around, Payne sang Michael Bublé's version of "Cry Me a River," appearing nervous at the start but warming up with the audience's cheers and applause.

After each singer failed to make it through the competition as solo acts, Simon Cowell and his fellow judges combined Payne, Zayn Malik, Harry Styles, Niall Horan and Louis Tomlinson into what would become one of the most successful boy bands—even though they lost the competition.

Percival Everett's 'James' wins \$50,000 Kirkus Prize for fiction

NEW YORK (AP)—Percival Everett's novel "James," his acclaimed reworking of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," has won a \$50,000 prize that continues Everett's recent wave of literary honors.

On Wednesday night, "James" was awarded the Kirkus Prize for fiction. Everett's novel, which imagines the perspective of the escaped enslaved man whom Huckleberry Finn befriends, is also a finalist for the National Book Award and the Booker Prize.

In the past three years, Everett has been a runner-up for the Pulitzer Prize and for the National Book Critics Circle prize, won the PEN/Jean Stein award for the novel "Dr. No" and received such lifetime achievement honors as the Windham-Campbell Litera-

ture Prize and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. His 2001 novel "Erasure" was adapted last year into the Oscar-nominated film "American Fiction."

Adam Higginbotham's "Challenger," about the 1986 space shuttle tragedy, won the Kirkus Prize for nonfiction; and Kenneth M. Cadow's "Gather," a coming-of-age novel set in rural Vermont, was cited for young readers' literature. Like Everett, Higginbotham and Cadow each will receive \$50,000.

"This year's prize-winning books—each written with elegance and lucidity—illuminate tragedies both personal and historical, helping us to better understand our world and the spirit of human resilience," Tom Beer, editor-in-chief of Kirkus, said in a statement.

Entertainment and lifestyle titan Barry Diller will have memoir out next spring

NEW YORK (AP)—Barry Diller has a memoir coming out next spring, covering a life that could fill multiple volumes.

Simon & Schuster announced Wednesday that Diller's "Who Knew" will be released May 20, following his rise from the mail room of the William Morris Agency to the heights of wealth and influence. His many achievements range from producing "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and

"Saturday Night Fever" to founding the Fox Broadcasting Company.

"I've had a history with telling stories and I thought mine was a good yarn if I could write it myself and tell it truthfully. I welcome it being out there for others to judge, and hopefully enjoy," Diller, 82, said in a statement.

He will also write about his marriage to Diane von Fürstberg and his current position as chairman and CEO of the

holding company IAC, where brands include Tinder, Expedia and such magazines as People and Travel + Leisure.

"Barry Diller's book is about much more than business. It is a remarkably honest and entertaining account of his personal journey, an unconventional love story, and a fascinating tour through show business and digital media," Jonathan Karp, CEO of Simon & Schuster and book's editor, said in a statement. "Readers know when an

author is telling the truth, and 'Who Knew' is delightfully candid on every page, in addition to being full of insights about our lives at work."

Financial terms for Diller's book deal were not disclosed. He was represented by Robert Barnett, the Washington attorney whose clients range from Barbra Streisand to former President Bill Clinton. Earlier this year, "Who Knew" was listed on Amazon.com as an Alfred A. Knopf release but was then removed. When asked about the apparent change in publishers, Barnett declined comment.

Husband chooses to make music with another woman

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I used to play in a band together. He played guitar, and I sang. He now has another female singer in his band, and I can hardly contain my feelings. In the beginning, he was invited into an existing band she was already in, and he accepted. But then, that band broke up and reformed, and he kept the girl in it. He knows how badly I have wanted to sing again. I tried endlessly to resurrect us as a duo or a starter band, but getting him to work with me was like pulling teeth.

I was a singer in my own right before him and since, but he has never been honest with me about why he doesn't want me to perform with him again. This has affected my confidence so much I have virtually given up singing. It kills me that I've relinquished my artistic identity over this. The thing is, he's just a local player -- this is not the big time. He had his heyday years ago, and she's just average. They don't have a following or crowds lining up to see them.

I have tried to be supportive because he needed the confidence. But I'm like two people -- the supportive wife and the manipulative green-eyed monster. To add insult to injury, she's made clear that she doesn't like me by unfriending me on social media. She named the band after herself, and posts provocative pictures of herself in the band all over the internet. I hate feel-

ing like this. I don't like who I am. Do you have any advice?

JEALOUS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR JEALOUS: Although the band was your husband's in the beginning, at the end of your letter you state that the vocalist has named the band after herself -- which leads me to believe the band is now hers and he is her employee. The fact that this new band isn't doing particularly well may mean that it won't last much longer. You had a singing career before you met your husband. It may be time to consider resurrecting it and reclaiming your own artistic identity.

◆◆◆◆

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter was widowed a number of years ago. She's now getting married for the second time. She and her fiancé are financially stable. They both have good jobs and are financing the wedding themselves. They have plenty of furniture and other household items.

My question is, what can we give them as a wedding present, or how can we help them? Would it be appropriate to offer to pay for the wedding cake and champagne for the reception? Any other suggestions would be appreciated.

PARENTS OF THE BRIDE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR PARENTS: Why not propose your idea and ask if your daughter has any other ideas about how you can be helpful. Because she and her fiancé have good jobs and are financing the wedding themselves, consider offering to buy them something for their new home, such as an appliance, or to contribute toward their honeymoon.

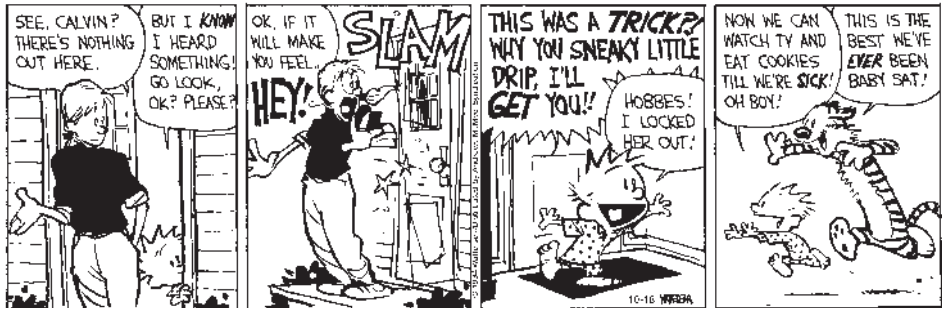
◆◆◆◆

Good advice for everyone -- teens to seniors -- is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

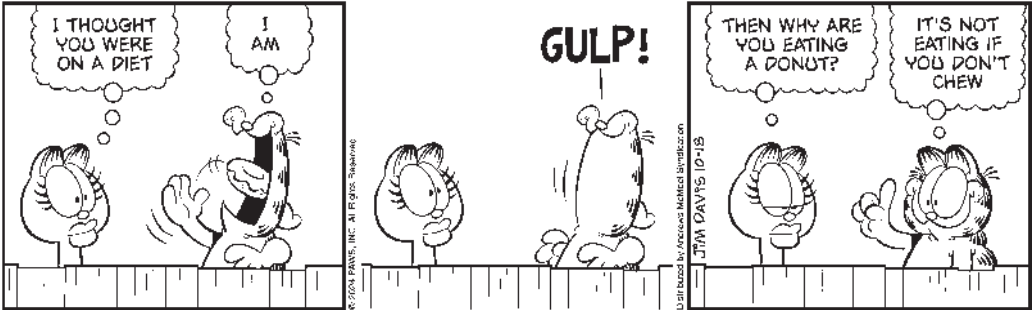
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



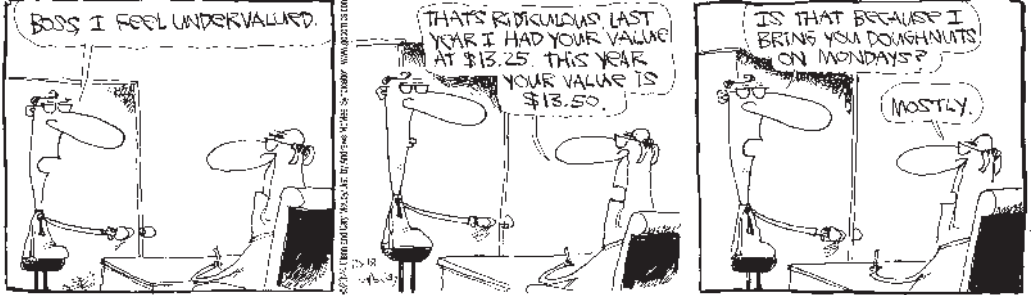
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

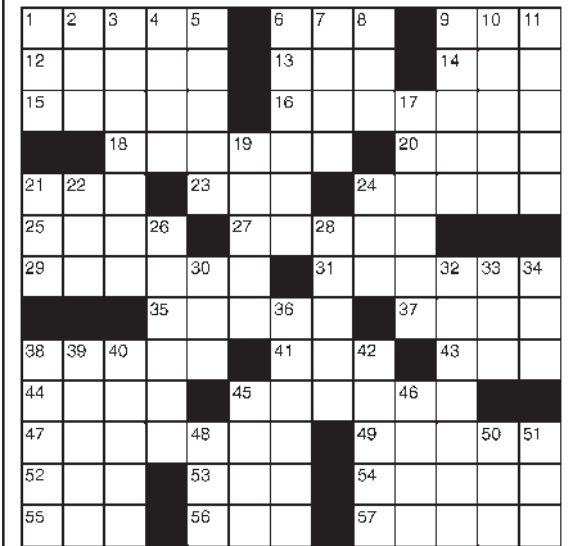
- 1 Labrador explorer
- 6 Scoundrel
- 9 Moment
- 12 "What's in —?"
- 13 Swiss canton
- 14 Born
- 15 Pooh's creator
- 16 Water heaters
- 18 Transparent
- 20 "Tosca" solo
- 21 Honest pres.
- 23 Year-book gp.
- 24 Milk dispenser
- 25 Golf standards
- 27 Revise
- 29 Egyptian goddess
- 31 "Baby" singer Justin
- 35 — dish
- 37 Video-streaming brand
- 38 Countrified

DOWN

- 1 Rotating part
- 2 Blackbird
- 3 TV series starring alert
- 4 Hotel chain
- 5 Abounds
- 6 Picasso's movement
- 7 Yankee nickname
- 8 Cato's
- 9 Mortimer the dummy
- 10 Haunting
- 11 Activist Chavez
- 17 Firetruck necessity
- 19 "Passengers" actor
- 21 NYPD
- 22 Sheep's cry
- 24 Half of bi-
- 26 Minnesota's cap.
- 28 Motorized two-wheeler
- 30 Sushi fish
- 32 Derby hats
- 33 Scrape (out)
- 34 Massage
- 36 Brawl in the
- 38 Picture puzzle
- 39 Standard
- 40 Hotel posting
- 42 Pursuing
- 45 Russian river
- 46 Incite
- 48 Clean air org.
- 50 Geese formation
- 51 Addams cousin

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zac Efron, 37; Esperanza Spalding, 40; Freida Pinto, 40; Wynton Marsalis, 63.

Happy Birthday: Live, learn and look for the positive in everything you do. Expand your interests instead of letting procrastination set in and play with your plans. An innovative approach to finances, staying fit and incorporating the things you enjoy doing most into your daily routine will help turn every day into one of making new memories and enjoying life to the fullest. Make travel, learning and romance priorities. Your numbers are 4, 11, 19, 26, 35, 42, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Focus on bringing in cash, growing investments and boosting your health. Refuse to let anyone bait you into an argument. Keep your opinions to yourself and sidestep wasting time fighting a losing battle. Let your strengths and a desire for knowledge and experience be the focus of your day. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your energy where it counts. Home improvements, lowering your overhead and offering one of your specialties for a price will position you for more excellent stability, comfort and peace of mind. A change will turn out better than you anticipate. Embrace new beginnings and nurture meaningful relationships. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be careful what you share. Offering personal information will give someone an advantage. Listen and strategize your next move. Put your energy into looking and feeling your best, and build the confidence you require to implement your plans. Refuse to let anyone outmaneuver you. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stand tall and proceed with your plans. It's okay to do things your way. Having an impact will

boost your reputation and assure that you gain the audience you need to support your efforts. Network, socialize and make your dreams come true. Be the master of your destiny. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Speak from the heart, and you'll get the attention you require to make your point and gain insight and help from experts. You'll shine if you embark on a challenge that requires physical endurance. You can make a difference if you put your mind to it, strategize and act. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stretch your mind, visit inspiring places and consider a change that could lead to a better lifestyle. Be adventurous, try something new and surround yourself with people of interest. The more information and influences you encounter, the easier it will be to make the right choice. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Mix business with pleasure. Join the conversation and participate in events and activities that cross over from things you enjoy to ways to use your attributes and skills to earn a living. Mix and match for optimum results, and peace and happiness will flourish. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't settle for anything less than what you want. Persistence, passion and ingenuity will get you to your destination and help you hold on to what's essential. Refrain from letting what others choose to do lead to a direction that benefits them more than you. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You need to know the rules to make it easier to stick to the necessary protocol. When reason isn't working for you, it's time to be innovative and think outside the box. Dig deep, and your heart will lead you in a direction that makes you feel good about your achievements. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take care of your needs. Fix up your space to accommodate what you want to do next. A change of scenery or associates will give you a unique perspective regarding your plans and how best to tailor them to your own specifications. Precision and detail will lead to success. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Mixed emotions and outside influences will add to your confusion. When in doubt, sit tight and observe. You don't have to make a snap decision. Take a break, socialize and do something that takes your mind off your worries or that makes you look and feel your best. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A steady pace forward will help you gain momentum and an audience to support your efforts. Your insight will lead to financial gain or a healthier lifestyle. Added discipline will help you complete whatever mission you pursue. Say no to temptation and indulgent behavior. ****

Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, persistent and dedicated. You are proactive and entertaining.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

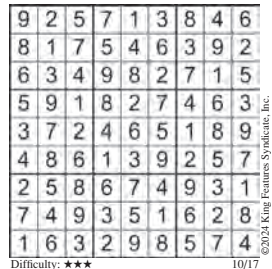
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★★★ 10/18 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TIES COMPLETE A SUIT Solution: 7 letters

L P E Z I S F A S H I O N G C
A A S N G I S E D C H L R I
N I N H T L A A S C O T S O R
O S E O I K L T E H I G D O B
S L M L I N E N T N N N S M A
R E W S Y T E D K I E E T S F
E Y B O W T I E D R R L O K F
P A C L R W S D T R S E N I L
A R O I K R E T A A E H K N O
T G A D E W A S R R V S A N R
T Y T L E V O N T I T A S Y A
E R T D L X D I A L P S R E L
R S A R S O U P N I C E I C D
N H S M A I C T T R I H S A C
S M E H S P R I N T S L O O W

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Ascots, Attire, Bolo, Bowtie, Coat, Collar, Cravat, Design, Dressed, Fabric, Fashion, Floral, Gray, Groom, Hems, Knit, Knots, Length, Linen, Lines, Motif, Narrow, Neck, Nice, Novelty, Paisley, Party, Pattern, Personal, Pins, Plaid, Prints, Sash, Shade, Shine, Shirt, Silk, Size, Skinny, Sleek, Smart, Solid, Stripes, Style, Tartan, Traditional, Trend, Tuxedo, Waist, Wedding, Width, Wool
Yesterday's Answer: Teddy Bear
For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Ohtani homers as Dodgers rout Mets for 2-1 lead in NLCS



NEW YORK
(AP)—By

the time Shohei Ohtani stepped to the plate in the eighth inning Wednesday night, the Los Angeles Dodgers were already in control.

Once the ball left his bat, Game 3 of the National League Championship Series was over.

Ohtani launched a three-run homer and the Dodgers pulled away for an 8-0 victory against the choppy New York Mets that gave them a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Kiké Hernández hit a two-run shot to make it 4-0 in the sixth with his 15th career postseason homer and waved to the Citi Field crowd he quieted. Los Angeles rebounded from a loss at home by pitching its fourth shutout in the past five playoff games.

"These guys are locked in. And they understand they have a job to do to prevent runs," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "And I think we're playing good defense, too."

Game 4 is Thursday night in Queens, with \$325 million rookie Yoshinobu Yamamoto scheduled to start for Los Angeles against veteran left-hander Jose Quintana.

Ohtani connected for a towering 410-foot drive that soared into the second deck in right field. He gave a little lean at home plate as he watched the ball barely stay fair above the foul pole.

Max Muncy went deep in the ninth for his 13th career postseason homer, tying Corey Seager and Justin Turner for the franchise record. Muncy also connected in Game 2.

"It's definitely a blessing. I can't be thankful enough that I've had the opportunity to play enough games to be able to accrue those numbers," he said. "Thankful to be able to be on a team and an organization that gets to the postseason every single year."

Dodgers starter Walker Buehler struck out Francisco Lindor on a full-count knuckle curve to leave the bases loaded in the second.

A fired-up Buehler shouted as he walked off the mound, and then again in Lindor's direction.

"That was the pitch of the game," Roberts said. "Obviously, the crowd was into it. They were gaining momentum. To get the breaking ball down below the zone and get a great hitter out was huge. And I think that just kind of speaks to experience."

No. 9 batter Francisco Alvarez fanned right before Lindor and went down looking all three times up. New York stranded six runners in the first three innings against Buehler



Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani celebrates his three-run home run against the New York Mets during the eighth inning in Game 3 of a baseball NL Championship Series, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024, in New York.

when the game was still close.

"Walker, he's a different animal in the postseason. I don't care what his regular-season numbers are, especially this year coming off the second Tommy John (surgery)," Muncy said. "We all knew once we got into this setting he was going to be Walker Buehler, and he was definitely that tonight."

Winless since May 18 during an injury-plagued season, Buehler made his 17th career postseason start. He struck out six in four innings of three-hit ball after failing to whiff a single batter during his Division Series loss to San Diego.

"Being in big games, that's literally all I care about," said Buehler, who ditched his windup early in the game and began working exclusively out of the stretch because he couldn't feel his cold right foot on a hard mound.

"This is definitely a big momentum win for us. But if we don't do something with it, then it doesn't really matter a whole lot."

Buehler combined with four relievers on a four-hitter as the Dodgers got five stingy innings from their hard-throwing bullpen.

"This guy has proven year

after year that when there's a big game and the Dodgers need a win, he's the right guy to be on the mound," Hernández said.

Michael Kopech worked a hitless fifth for the win, and Dodgers pitchers finished with 13 strikeouts.

Mets starter Luis Severino fell behind 2-0 in the second, partly due to some shoddy fielding. He did not permit an earned run but threw 95 pitches and walked four in 4 2/3 innings, taking the loss.

Slumping catcher Will Smith knocked in a run with an infield single, and Tommy

Edman had a sacrifice fly that could have been more if not for a sensational catch on the right-center warning track by Tyrone Taylor.

Los Angeles threw consecutive shutouts against San Diego to win their heated Division Series after trailing two games to one. Jack Flaherty and the Dodgers then blanked the Mets 9-0 in the NLCS opener Sunday, extending the team's scoreless streak to 33 innings—matching a postseason record.

The only recent blip for the pitching staff came Monday, when Lindor hit a leadoff

homer and the Mets won 7-3 at Chavez Ravine.

Ohtani entered batting .222 with a homer and five RBIs during his first postseason. The \$700 million superstar sparked the offense in Game 1 against the Mets, but hadn't gone deep since hitting a three-run homer early in the Division Series opener.

"It's important for Shohei, certainly, to build some confidence," Roberts said.

When he connected on an 0-1 cutter from Tylor Megill in the eighth, Ohtani pointed toward the Dodgers dugout. The ball was initially called fair, a ruling that stood following a replay review.

"I just threw it into it his honey hole and he launched it into the upper deck," Megill said.

Dating to the regular season, Ohtani has 17 hits and 27 RBIs in his past 20 at-bats with runners in scoring position, including seven home runs. The leadoff hitter is 0 for 22 this postseason with the bases empty. With runners on, he is 7 for 9 with two homers and eight RBIs.

Los Angeles improved to 4-0 at Citi Field this year, outscoring New York 26-5. That includes a three-game sweep in late May that dropped the Mets to 22-33 and marked the low point of their rollercoaster season.

"I like the fact that we are getting guys on base. Just haven't been able to come up with a big hit," New York manager Carlos Mendoza said. "As long as we continue to create traffic, somebody's going to come up and get that big one for us."

After Severino misplays pair of comebackers, Mets in need of NLCS comeback vs. Dodgers

NEW YORK (AP)—On a night of misplayed comebackers, the New York Mets put themselves in a need of yet another comeback.

Luis Severino twice botched grounders, leading to a pair of unearned runs in the second inning. And after the Mets loaded the bases with one out in the bottom half, Francisco Alvarez and Francisco Lindor both struck out against Walker Buehler.

Los Angeles sizzled and New York fizzled in an 8-0 loss Wednesday that gave the Dodgers a 2-1 NL Championship Series lead.

"We got beat 9-0 the first game, then we came back and won Game 2. I don't see why we can't come back and do that tomorrow," said Mets reliever Reed Garrett, who allowed Kiké Hernández's two-run, sixth-inning homer that made it 4-0.

Severino put on Max

Muncy leading off the second with the first of seven walks by Mets pitchers and Teoscar Hernández hit a taper in front of the plate. Alvarez tried for the lead runner, but his throw hit Muncy.

"Maybe tried to do a little too much there," Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said.

Gavin Lux hit a one-hopper to Severino, a Gold Glove finalist, that easily could have been turned into a double play, but the ball hit off the pitcher's glove and Severino's only option when he picked it up was to throw to first for an out.

Will Smith, extending his at-bat to nine pitches, followed with another one-hopper. This one deflected off Severino's glove and rolled toward shortstop for an infield hit as Muncy scored the game's first run. Three pitches later, Tommy Edman's sacrifice fly built a 2-0 lead.

"I feel like my glove messed everything up in that inning there," Severino said. "I should have caught those. One, it should have been an easy double play. The other one, I should have stopped the guy going to home plate."

Jose Iglesias' single between walks to J.D. Martinez and Tyrone Taylor loaded the bases in the bottom half. Alvarez, 1 for 21 with the bases loaded in his regular-season career, took a 2-2 fastball on the outside corner for a called third strike.

That brought up Lindor, a .336 hitter with the bases loaded over 10 big league seasons. He had erased a one-run, sixth-inning deficit with his slam off Philadelphia's Carlos Estévez in the Division Series Game 4 clincher. This time Lindor swung over a full-count knuckle-curve.

"He does a really good job of tunneling," Lindor said. "It comes from the same spot as the fastball and then it drops."

Buehler walked off the mound, shouting and pounding his bare hand into his glove. The 30-year-old right-hander returned to the major leagues in May following Tommy John surgery and is a different pitcher than he was when he became a two-time All-Star.

"In 2018, 2019, 2020 I would have thrown a fastball," he said.

Shohei Ohtani provided the night's most memorable moment with a three-run homer in the eighth against Tylor Megill that soared over the right-field foul pole. New York fell behind in a postseason series for the first time this October, and Citi Field was less than half-full by the ninth inning

as many in the sellout crowd of 43,883 had their fill of frustration.

New York has been blanked in both losses while getting seven hits and striking out 20 times. The Mets' NLCS batting average is down to .179, with Lindor and Pete Alonso both 1 for 11, Brandon Nimmo 1 for 10 and Alvarez 1 for 9.

Mets pitchers have walked 22.

"They're not going to chase as much," Mendoza said. "We've got to not only get ahead but we've got to continue to stay on the attack and execute pitches. If we get behind in counts, they're going to make us pay."

After starting the season 0-5 and dropping to 22-33 when the Dodgers swept a three-game series at Citi Field in May, the Mets are confident they can rebound.

"You got to flush this one as fast as you can," Lindor said.

Magic, Heat look like teams to catch this season in Southeast Division

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



Paolo Banchero looked at one of the walls inside the AdventHealth Training Center after the Orlando Magic finished their first practice of this season and couldn't help but feel a real sense of satisfaction.

A new addition was there: The banner commemorating last season's Southeast Division championship.

"It's awesome," Banchero said. "Getting to put a banner up and have something that you can point up to as a symbol of the work you put in that year, that season ... just looking at it, I think it'll be the start of something even greater. Hopefully we can put a couple more banners up."

The Magic won the division by a game over Miami last season; Orlando won 47, Miami won 46. That continued a wild trend of the Southeast not seeing a 50-win team—there's been only one club in the last nine seasons to win that many out of that division, that being the 53-29 Heat in 2021-22.

For comparison's sake, the Northwest Division had three 50-win clubs last season alone.

"You have to take what you want out of this league," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And you can't be afraid of the competition. Can't be afraid of proving it in between those four lines. And that's the type of competitors we have in our locker room."



AP
Miami Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra looks on during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game against the Charlotte Hornets, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, in Charlotte, N.C.

It looks like Orlando and Miami should be the two top teams in the division again, the worst by any division since the Southeast wasn't exactly loaded a year ago.

The five teams combined for a .402 winning percentage, the worst by any division since the Atlantic finished at .395 in the 2014-15 season. Atlanta won 36 games, while Charlotte (21 wins) and Washington (15 wins) were two of the four worst teams in the league.

The division had just the Heat and Magic make the playoffs. The Heat lost to Boston 4-1 in Round 1, the Magic lost a Game 7 at Cleveland in Round 1.

"These guys have talked about what they learned from that seven-game series,"

Magic coach Jamahl Mosley said. "Well, now there's a hyper-focus to do what you can do individually to get better. That's part of the process. And then it's what you can do collectively to get better."

A look at the Southeast, in predicted order of finish:

Orlando Magic

No team in the Eastern Conference has climbed higher in the last two seasons than the Magic, who went from a 22-win team in the season before drafting Banchero No. 1 overall in 2022 to a 47-win club that won the division last season under Mosley. The 25-win improvement is second-best in the NBA over that span, behind only Oklahoma City's plus-33. It's a young core,

Banchero and Franz Wagner leading the way. Adding two-time champion Kentavious Caldwell-Pope helps the 3-point shooting. The Magic open with seven of their first nine on the road, an early test.

Miami Heat

Jimmy Butler's future remains unclear; he could leave as a free agent after this season, which could make him a trade target if Miami stumbles at any point. He and guard Terry Rozier were hurt and couldn't play in last season's first-round ouster against Boston. The core is largely back intact from the 46-win team of a season ago, led by All-Star big man and now two-time Olympic gold medalist Bam Adebayo. Heat

coach Erik Spoelstra was an assistant on that Olympic team. A key for Miami: how forwards Jaime Jaquez Jr. and Nikola Jovic develop.

Atlanta Hawks

Trae Young almost always leads the team in scoring and assists. He'll now have to lead in other ways. The Hawks beat the odds to land the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft, and the selection of 6-foot-9 Zacharie Risacher could pay off. The 19-year-old from France has impressed the Hawks with his feel for the game, athleticism and a shooting touch. He could join Jalen Johnson, who emerged as a strong scorer and rebounder last season, as Young's most productive sidekicks following the

offseason trade of Dejeunte Murray to New Orleans.

Charlotte Hornets

New coach Charles Lee won his second ring as an assistant last season by helping Boston to the title. He will be stressing defense as Charlotte looks to snap a league-worst eight-year playoff drought. Point guard LaMelo Ball, the only player in franchise history to receive a max contract (five years, \$204 million), has missed 106 games over the past two seasons due to injuries. Brandon Miller won three Eastern Conference rookie of the month awards last season. He and Ball will be focal points of the offense, along with forward Miles Bridges and center Mark Williams.

Washington Wizards

There's nowhere to go but up for the rebuilding Wizards, who were a franchise-worst 15-67 last season. They'll expect more production from guard Jordan Poole, who struggled early on in his first season with Washington (15.6 ppg before the All-Star break, 20.9 ppg afterward). Kyle Kuzma is coming off a career-best 22.2 ppg season. The arrival of veteran center Jonas Valanciunas will help rebounding; the Wizards were outrebounded by nearly eight per game last season, the NBA's worst differential in a decade. Brian Keefe is the full-time coach; he finished last season as the interim.

NEW YORK (AP)—In the Atlantic Division home of the NBA champions, two long-time rivals made big moves in hopes that they can have their time at the top.

New York and Philadelphia are conceding nothing to the Boston Celtics. They are loading up for a run at them.

Both teams added top wing defenders to match up with the Celtics' tandem of Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum, with the Knicks acquiring Mikal Bridges from Brooklyn and the 76ers signing perennial All-Star Paul George.

The Knicks then addressed a hole in the middle by landing All-Star big man Karl-Anthony Towns from Minnesota in a blockbuster move as training camps were opening.

"Obviously Knicks are on the rise as well as ourselves and a couple other teams out East," George said, "so they definitely made a splash with that pickup."

The offseason moves could put the top three teams in the Eastern Conference in the Atlantic, with the Toronto Raptors and Nets further down in various stages of rebuilding.

Atlantic Division rivals Knicks, 76ers load up for a run at NBA champion Celtics

Aggressive plays were needed to close the gap with the Celtics, who rolled to an NBA-best 64-18 record last season before a dominant 16-3 run through the postseason en route to their league-record 18th championship.

With Tatum and Brown taking turns carrying the scoring load, Jrue Holiday and Derrick White combining to make one of the toughest defensive backcourts in the league, and Kristaps Porzingis and Al Horford manning the middle, the Celtics seem to have everything they need to repeat after winning their first championship since 2008.

The droughts are much longer in New York and Philadelphia—and the teams have rarely gotten close to ending them.

The Knicks haven't made the conference finals since 2000. They felt they could get there last season after winning 50 games and earning the No. 2 seed in the East, then knocking off the 76ers in the first round. But injuries caught up to them and they were beaten

by Indiana in Game 7 of the East semifinals, one game before they would have matched up with the Celtics.

The 76ers haven't gone beyond the second round since reaching the 2001 NBA Finals. But with former NBA MVP Joel Embiid in the middle now flanked by George on the outside, there's the same belief in Philadelphia going into the season that there is in New York. George left Monday's preseason game against Atlanta with a hyperextended left knee. There was no immediate update how much time George might miss following his injury.

"I know Philly's passion. I know New York's passion, so I know both sides demand greatness and they want to win," said Bridges, who played in college at Villanova. "So I mean, we both got better but we're in preseason right now. Just trying to take it one game at a time, one practice at a time and just try to be the best team we can be when it's all said and done."

A look at each team in the

Atlantic Division, in predicted order of finish:

Boston Celtics

The health of the oft-injured Porzingis is probably the only major concern for the champions.

The Celtics certainly didn't feel any urgency to change things up, bringing back their top 11 scorers from a team that topped the NBA with 1,351 3-pointers in 2023-24. With Brown, the NBA Finals MVP, seemingly getting better every year and Tatum with some added motivation after a couple games benched during the Olympics, it's hard to see much if any drop-off in Boston.

New York Knicks

The Knicks gave up a lot in their big trades, sending three-time All-Star Julius Randle to Minnesota along with Donte DiVincenzo, who set their franchise record for 3-pointers in his lone season in New York. They traded four first-round picks to Brooklyn in the deal for Bridges after carefully

stockpiling for years.

Those kinds of moves are only made if a team really thinks it can win now and the Knicks have developed that belief after reaching the East semifinals in both seasons since the arrival of Jalen Brunson, who finished fifth in the league in MVP voting last season after averaging 28.7 points in his first All-Star season.

Philadelphia 76ers

The 76ers constantly walk the fine line of having Embiid on the floor enough to get a good playoff seeding, but not wear him down before the postseason. Philadelphia tumbled all the way to the play-in tournament after he missed two months last season.

The 76ers should be better equipped to handle the times they have to play without the two-time scoring champion thanks to the addition of George and the development of Tyrese Maxey, last season's Most Improved Player after scoring 25.9 points per game.

Toronto Raptors

The Raptors have a star on the rise in 2022 Rookie of the Year Scottie Barnes, who followed his first All-Star season by signing a contract extension over the summer. But there's not enough around him to contend in an East that appears much stronger than when the Raptors won the NBA championship in 2019. They might be good enough to improve on last season's 25-57 finish, though.

Brooklyn Nets

By trading Bridges in the first deal between the Knicks and Nets since 1983, Brooklyn signaled the beginning of a rebuilding era. General manager Sean Marks said it doesn't need to be a long one, but at least for now the Nets are expected to be one of the worst teams in the league. The only thing that could prevent that, perhaps, would be a return to form for three-time All-Star Ben Simmons, who has been largely inactive and unproductive since the Nets acquired him from Philadelphia in 2022 and is entering the last season of his contract.

Kanoa, Matansa notch wins in TYSL

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER



Kanoa Football Club and Matansa Football Club notched wins in their respective divisions of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League



NMIFA

A Kanoa player, left, and a Shirley's player scramble for the loose ball during their match in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in



NMIFA

A Matansa player, right, is entangled with a Latte player during their game in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

Fall 2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

In the U17 girls division, Kanoa overwhelmed Shirley's FC, 11-1.

It was a complete takeover by the girls in orange from the starting whistle with an opening goal just a minute

in by Aubrey White. Three minutes later, Beatrice Gross doubled their lead with a goal of her own.

There was a moment of reprieve for Shirley's who tried to regroup and get on board, but Kanoa went back into the swing of things with another goal by Gross in the 14th.

Ha followed Gross' lead once again as she made it 5-0 just a minute later. Shirley's were still mum at this point and Kanoa was just getting started. Gross completed her hat-trick in the 24th, while Ha finished hers in the 27th for a 7-0 lead.

It was all Ha from there as she found the back of the net three more times even before Shirley's scored their lone goal. In the 54th, Shirley's Stacy Arriola got them on board, but it was too late to rally. White wrapped up Kanoa's onslaught in the 57th, with the eventual final of 11-1.

As for the U17 boys division, Matansa shut down Latte FC, 6-0.

The exchanges for possession waged on without the other being able to score. They were evenly matched until Jayvin Bisek converted a goal in the 10th. Then, in the 14th minute, Jerome Mettao put them up by two.

Matansa and Latte were then quiet for over 20 minutes

after that as they tried to get the better of the other. Latte could not convert any opportunities which gave way to Matansa capitalizing and scoring one in the 35th by MD Khan, another by Benet Haro in the 38th, and one right after by Khan again just a minute later for a 5-0 game.

Latte was still unable to locate the net as Matansa's Nolan Ngewakl concluded the game with their sixth goal in the 64th minute for a 6-0 final.

In other results of the U17 girls division, MP United slipped past Paire, 2-1. In the

other game of the U17 boys division, MP United and Kanoa were evenly matched and ended in a 1-1 draw.

As for the U17 boys division, MP United overpowered Shirley's, 10-1; Kanoa FC 1 beat Matansa, 5-0; and Latte showed no mercy to Kanoa FC 2, 11-0; in the U14 girls division, Kanoa defeated Paire, 4-2, and MP United outscored Latte, 2-1; in the U12 boys division, MP United blanked Shirley's, 4-0; Kanoa FC 1 won over Matansa, 5-1; and Latte nipped Kanoa FC 2, 1-0.

STRONG

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However, it was still anybody's game as Azriel Fatialofa put her height and strength to good use to convert kills to points. It was then 10-13 after Zoe Lee landed a kill of her own, then Fatialofa followed it up with another to make it 11-13.

GCA then committed some errors on their returns and soon, it was all knotted up, 14-14. SSHS tried to ride on their momentum, but GCA's chemistry and better executed plays rooted them to just one more point. Sloppy plays became the downfall of SSHS and GCA wrapped up their last game of the season with a win through commanding kills at the net, 21-15.

In the north court, the battle between ACS and Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus waged on at the same time.

In that game, the Torchbearers secured their third win of the season in two sets, 21-19, 21-14.

The first set didn't come easy for the Torchbearers though as

the Lady Ayuyus gave them a run for their money.

When the Torchbearers thought they could put the first set away, KHS kept pace and were tied at some points toward the end. They landed good returns and caused some ACS errors, but ACS was persistent and would constantly land a point. They would have a 1-point advantage, 18-17, 19-18, until they pulled away and left KHS at 19 points.

The last set was much easier for ACS to traverse as KHS' defenses and returns faltered.

In the first two games of the night, both went into three sets as all teams wanted to wrap up the season with a win.

MCS II first beat MHS III, 17-21, 21-11, 18-16. Then, SIS took down the Lady Dolphins, 17-21, 21-12, 15-6.

In the final standings, MHS and GCA are tied at four wins and two losses apiece; ACS, MCS, and SIS are at the middle of the pack with a 3-3 record each; while KHS and SSHS are at 2-4 each.

The championship series is set for Oct. 23-25.

CAROL

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tournaments as possible to earn ranking points, with aspirations of winning several W15 and W35 tournaments within the year. Long-term, she dreams of breaking into the Top 100 and competing in all four Grand Slam tournaments.

Lee's tennis journey began at the age of 6, inspired by her father, who has been both her coach and mentor. Growing up on the island of Saipan, Lee spent countless afternoons on the courts, training hard and playing practice matches in the evenings. She attended elementary and middle school on Saipan before earning a full scholarship to Fiji for high school, where she balanced her education with rigorous training as a full-time junior athlete.

Lee's time at the Georgia Institute of Technology marked a significant chapter in her development. Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with high honors, she faced the chal-

lenge of balancing a demanding academic schedule with her tennis commitments.

During her senior year, her training routine was intense, involving individual practices, team workouts, and gym sessions, all while frequently traveling for matches.

"Georgia Tech's academics are tough, so I had to prioritize my time wisely," she notes.

The biggest challenges she faced came from juggling academics and athletics. However, Lee credits her success to a robust support system that includes her family, friends, and mentors.

"God, my family, close friends, my boyfriend Zongrui Wee and his family, teammates at Georgia Tech, and coaches in Fiji—Roxanne Clarke and Thomas Perrin—have all influenced my career," she says.

She also acknowledges the invaluable support from the ITF Player Development Team, Oceania Tennis Federation, and Georgia Tech coaches like Rodney Harmon, Alexis Casati, Austin Roeuck, Maryann Aaron, and Scott McDonald.

Additionally, she expresses gratitude to the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association for facilitating local tournaments and helping her compete at events like the North Pacific Regional Championships and Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, which have significantly raised her level of play.

"Their unwavering belief in me pushes me to strive for my full potential," she affirms.

Among her most memorable experiences, winning her first Grade 5 ITF junior tournament in New Caledonia at age 15 stands out. She recalls the pride of representing Saipan when she won another Grade 5 tournament at home. Additionally, a memorable moment was winning the gold medal in mixed doubles at the Pacific Games in Samoa in 2019. Her experiences at the Australian Open Juniors and the U.S. Open Juniors also shaped her career, alongside significant college achievements, such as clinching a victory against NC State and reaching the quarterfinals at the NCAA Division I Women's Championship.

Inspiration comes from tennis icons like Roger Federer, whose technique and calm demeanor influence her style, and the late Kobe Bryant, whose "Mamba Mentality" underscores the importance of discipline and mental toughness.

For aspiring young players, Lee offers this advice: "Work hard, take care of your body, focus on your mental game, and remain disciplined and consistent. Even on low-motivation days, do the work anyway—dedication is key. Most importantly, enjoy the process and create lasting memories."

Looking beyond tennis, Lee is uncertain about her future but is committed to staying present and trusting that God has a greater plan for her.

"I focus on controlling what I can at the moment," she says, embodying the spirit of a dedicated athlete ready to take on the challenges of the professional circuit. With the support of her family, her boyfriend and his family, and NMIFA, Lee is undoubtedly a rising star to watch, combining talent, hard work, and a strong support network on her journey to success.

SILVER

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Song, who is of Korean descent and raised on Saipan since he was 10 years old, said walking into the competition, he was nervous carrying Trench Tech alone that day.

"I didn't want my lack of skills to reflect on the gym's reputation negatively, however thanks to all the training under professor [Justis] 'Cuki' Alvarez we secured a silver medal for Saipan. Highlight of my competition was getting a submission at 16 seconds and [being] acknowledged by the world

champion Felipe Andrew and Leticia Cardozo who were spectating from the sideline."

Another highlight, he said, was when "professor Cuki and his wife Mari, who received the Pioneer Award for keeping the martial arts alive not just on Saipan but also on our neighboring islands."

He then gave a shout out to all his coaches and teammates in Trench Tech, "especially Rey Kim who invests a lot of his personal time on the class curriculum for the students. Shout out to Kika of Purebred Guam for winning \$5,000 for [the] brown belt division. All her hard work paid off. Shout

out to [the] Saipan Submissions [Academy] for representing the island together out there."

Alvarez, owner and professor at Trench Tech, said of Song's performance, "Overall, he did well. He won his [first] and [second] matches and transferred to the gold medal final match. But in receiving the silver medal, although we got second place and made it to the podium, we actually lost the gold medal. So, we ended the tournament with a loss."

With that, he said, "We have a lot to work on and need to be more proficient in finishing the later rounds strong. The

later rounds are the important rounds. All in all, it was a good showing and from this loss, we got better because we know where we need to get better at."

The Marianas Open was the grand finale in the 2024 Marianas Pro Series. It began with the Copa De Marianas Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Gi/No-Gi Tournament last February; then the Marianas Pro Japan last March; the Marianas Pro Philippines last April; and the Marianas Pro Korea last June.

This last tournament in Guam featured over 750 martial artists from around the world and had the largest turnout in history.



LEIGH GASES

Grace Christian Academy's Tae Hee Kim leaps for a kill during the first set of their match against Saipan Southern High School in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Tuesday.



LEIGH GASES

Grace Christian Academy's Beatrice Fabre goes for a kill at the net during the second set of their match against Saipan Southern High School in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Tuesday.



Ohtani homers
as Dodgers rout
Mets for 2-1 lead in
NLCS.
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Carol Lee sets sights on pro career

By JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
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CORRESPONDENT

At just 22, Carol Lee is poised to make her mark in the world of professional tennis. After graduating this summer, she is fully committed to launching her career, training diligently, and competing in ITF pro tournaments across Asia, driven by her passion for the sport and her desire to achieve her goals.



As she transitions into professional tennis, Lee faces new hurdles, particularly in finding training facilities and tournament opportunities. With a low

ranking, she must navigate a complicated landscape to gain entry into events, especially in W15 and W35 tournaments. Moreover, the financial burden of travel, accommodations, and equipment now falls on her and her family—starkly

contrasting to her scholarship days when those expenses were covered.

Despite these challenges, Lee remains focused on her goals. In the short term, she aims to participate in as many

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee in a file photo from her time with the Georgia Tech women's tennis team.



Strong finish for GCA, ACS, SIS, MCS



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Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles, Agape Christian School Torchbearers, Saipan International School Lady Geckos, and Mount Carmel School Knights finished the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 season strong with a win each in the last day of regular season games last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Eagles won over Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays in two sets, 21-8, 21-15, for their fourth win of the season.

The rotation of Mariana Angeles, Beatrice Fabre, Sofia Gomez, Eunji Hahn, Sarang Kim, Tae Hee Kim, L.J. Libut, Alyssa Omampo, Eliane Pagaduan, Eunice Pagaduan,

Joaenella Yarofalir, and Diana Zheng kept the Lady Rays on their toes the whole time.

The first set went as swiftly as it started with back-to-back points by the Lady Eagles. The Lady Rays could not get their footing right and errors left and right allowed the Lady Eagles to capitalize and hold a big lead early.

Eliane Pagaduan led the way at the net with strong kills to make it 16-6. The Lady Rays managed to sneak in a point in there to make it 16-7, but after a hot streak of great serves by Omampo and a well-placed kill at the net by Tae Hee Kim, they took the first set, 21-8.

The Lady Rays tried to come back and for a tie-breaker third set, but just fell short. They paced the Lady Eagles, 3-3, at the beginning of the second, then fell behind 8-11.

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Grace Christian Academy's Tae Hee Kim goes for an overhead serve during the second set of their match against Saipan Southern High School in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Tuesday.

LEIGH GASES

Silver for Song in Marianas Open

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The lone wolf of Trench Tech Purebred Saipan during the 2024 Marianas Open International Championship Jiu-Jitsu Tournament (gi only) was Ballen Song and he settled for a silver medal last Saturday in the male white adult lightweight division at the University of Guam Calvo Field House.



The 29-year-old faced Guam's Landon Taitingfong in the finals, settling for silver by points as Taitingfong had the advantage with better wrestling takedowns. In the semifinals against Guam's Brent San Nicolas, Song secured a 16-second submission via ankle lock to punch his ticket to the finals. Prior to that, he won over George Pangelinan Jr.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trench Tech Purebred Saipan's Ballen Song, left, with his silver medal in the male white adult lightweight division of the 2024 Marianas Open International Championship Jiu-Jitsu Tournament (gi only) last Saturday at the University of Guam Calvo Fieldhouse.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TrenchTech Purebred Saipan's Ballen Song, center, poses with jiu jitsu black belt world champions Felipe Andrew, left, and Leticia Cardozo before the 2024 Marianas Open International Championship Jiu-Jitsu Tournament (gi only).